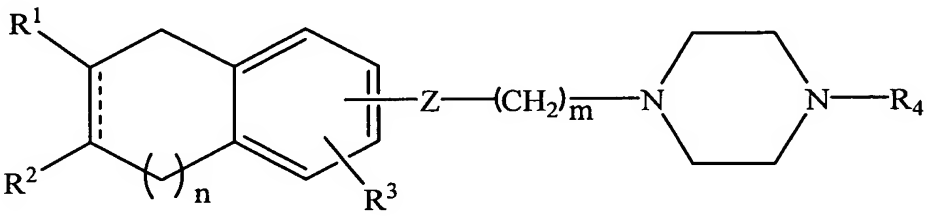
REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Tucker for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on November 18, 2005. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The rejection of Claims 1, 9-10, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the disclosure of US 4,857,644 (US '644) is respectfully traversed.

US '644 generally discloses aryl sulfonopiperazines as anti-inflammatory agents (see Title of US '644; col. 1, lines 10ff; and col. 2, lines 63-66). The aryl sulfonopiperazine disclosed in US '644 is defined by the following chemical structure.



The aryl sulfonopiperazine disclosed in US '644 is unlike the presently claimed sulfonyl derivative of Claim 1 because R_4 in US '644 is limited to a pyridinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, benzyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halo (see US '644 at col. 1, lines 30-33). In other words representing the sulfonyl derivative of formula (I) in Claim 1 as follows:

$$Q^A\text{-}SO_2\text{-}Q^3\text{-}T^1\text{-}Q^2\text{-}Q^1$$

one can see that Q^1 is now limited to represent a dicyclic fused ring. Q^1 of the presently claimed sulfonyl derivative can be contrasted to R_4 disclosed in US '644. Because US '644 does not disclose or suggest an aryl sulfonopiperazine in which R_4 is a dicyclic fused ring, Claim 1 is both novel and unobvious over this disclosure.

Applicants kindly request that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

The rejection of any one of 1-11, 17, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over the disclosure of WO 98/2118 (WO '118) is respectfully traversed.

WO '188 is generally directed to heterocycle derivatives which inhibit Factor Xa (see Title). The heterocycle derivative generally disclosed in WO '188 is represented by the following formula:

$$A\text{-}B\text{-}X^1\text{-}T^1(R^2)\text{-}L^1\text{-}T^2(R^3)\text{-}X^2\text{-}Q$$

WO '188 discloses that Q is phenyl, naphthyl, phenylC_{1-4}alkyl, phenylC_{2-4}alkenyl, phenylC_{2-4}alkynyl or a heterocyclic moiety containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur (see WO '188 at page 3, lines 1-3). The "Q" substituent of formula (I) disclosed in WO '188 should be contrasted to the "Q^1" substituent of the sulfonyl derivative of formula (I) in present Claim 1. Applicants note that Claim 1 is novel and unobvious over the disclosure of WO '188 because WO '188 does not disclose or suggest a "Q" substituent that represents a dicyclic fused ring.

Applicants kindly request that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

The rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 9-10, 17, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is obviated by amendment because the claims are amended to remove the terms "substituted or unsubstituted."

Applicants kindly request that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

Applicants note that the elected species B-54 is allowable over the references of record. Once the Examiner concludes the same, he is asked to search the following

additional species: B-28, B-32, B-36, B-61, B-63, B-99, B-100, B-102, B-112, B-140, B-151, and B-171, as they are believed to be allowable too.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the preceding remarks, Applicants believe that the present application is now in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the present response and believe that a discussion would be helpful in advancing this application toward allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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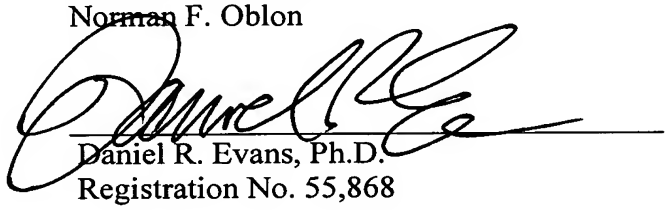
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



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